

Chief Phillips began his career with the fire department in 1974, when he became a firefighter. He later became a paramedic, and then went on to be a fire engineer. With hard work he was promoted to fire chief in 1999.

Chief Phillips has also been very active in his community, serving as Vice Chair of the Governing Board at Garden Grove Hospital. He has also been involved with the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the National Fire Protection Agency.

Chief Phillips has dedicated his life to serving his community and putting his life at risk to save others. I wish him well in his retirement.

PUBLIC HEALTH

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support legislation I am introducing today that will improve the public health of communities throughout America, make worksites safer for thousands of corrections officers and staff, and help to improve the health of inmates in correctional facilities.

Every year, more than 11 million people are released from prisons and jails across America, growing numbers of which suffer disproportionately from mental illness, substance abuse, and communicable diseases, such as HIV, hepatitis and tuberculosis.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, infectious diseases are more prevalent among correctional inmates than the general population. For AIDS, the prevalence among inmates is 5 times that of the general population. Tuberculosis infection rates are substantially higher among inmates, with estimates from 4 to 17 times higher. And the prevalence of hepatitis C among inmates is 9 to 10 times higher than that of the general population.

The health care needs of inmates have expanded as the incarcerated population has aged, succumbing to the same ailments that afflict the elderly in the outside world—such as diabetes, hypertension, and stroke.

It is a sad reflection of the inadequate health care system in America that many times inmates receive health care for the first time after they enter correctional facilities. Indeed, it is likely that the majority of inmates with communicable diseases entered correctional systems already infected. Having millions of inmates with serious communicable diseases threatens the health and lives of thousands of dedicated corrections officers and all who work in correctional facilities, as well as the rest of the prison population as well. Most inmates are released after they've served their time. Upon release, the threat to public health becomes clear, as inmates return to live and work in our communities. There is no doubt that correctional facilities play a key role in the battle against the spread of disease.

The challenge faced by correctional facilities is enormous. In an era of shrinking resources, corrections staff are called upon to do more with less. My bill is intended to assist them in this challenge.

To respond to this critical need, I am introducing legislation which would establish an Of-

fice of Correctional Health within the Department of Health and Human Services and would setup a program for States to combat hepatitis in correctional facilities. The proposed office would coordinate all correctional health programs within HHS; provide technical support to State and local correctional agencies on correctional health; cooperate with other Federal agencies carrying out correctional health programs to ensure coordination; and provide outreach and facilitate information exchange regarding correctional health activities.

As a result of discussions with a broad range of groups about the need to combat hepatitis, the bill that I am introducing will include a program to provide matching grants to States for the screening, immunization, and treatment of hepatitis A, B, and C in correctional facilities. This new program is based on recommendations in a report published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention entitled, Prevention and Control of Infections with Hepatitis Viruses in Correctional Settings. States will have flexibility in this program to screen, treat, or immunize inmates or employees.

The public health implications from joining this battle are clear. If we give corrections professionals the tools and resources they need to identify, treat, and prevent communicable disease, we protect those who reside both behind bars and beyond the gates.

I urge my colleagues to support this important public health measure.

LEGISLATION TO DEFER THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX ON MUTUAL FUND INVESTORS UNTIL SHARES ARE SOLD

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, millions of working Americans depend on mutual funds to invest and save for their future. Fund investors are overwhelmingly middle-income families and individuals who are investing for the long term and mutual funds provide an ideal way for smaller investors to invest in the U.S. economy. Easing the burden to invest and increasing the opportunities for these investors to put more into their portfolios is especially critical now given the nation's current economic health.

Because mutual funds are primarily used for long-term investments, many fund investors are understandably frustrated by a tax rule that forces them to pay tax on capital gains before they sell their shares in the fund. To further their long-term savings and investment goals, fund investors typically choose to have any capital gains distributions, which they would otherwise receive from the fund, automatically reinvested in the fund. Nevertheless, under current tax law, these fund investors are required to pay tax on such amounts even though they took no action to trigger those gains and their investment dollars remain in the fund. As widely reported in the press, fund investors find this tax rule inconsistent with both the long-term nature of their investment and their understanding of how investments are taxed.

This tax problem would be solved with my legislation by permitting fund investors to defer tax on mutual fund capital gain distributions that are automatically reinvested in the fund. These gains would be taxed when the investors sell their shares in the fund. Postponing the capital gains tax until the fund investor decides to sell his or her shares in the fund is consistent with the basic philosophy that a capital gains tax on an investment is not due until you sell the investment. This is the way an investor who holds stock directly is taxed.

Deferring capital gains tax on mutual fund investors until they sell their fund shares will promote savings by middle-income investors. Adoption of this approach will permit those savings to grow more rapidly and remain invested in America's economy as intended by the fund investors.

My bill will promote personal savings and investment in the national economy by changing tax rules to reflect the continuing nature of the shareholder's investment in the fund.

FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues an essay written by fellow Kansan, Christina Lachut. Ms. Lachut, from Fort Riley, Kansas, is this year's Kansas winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Scholarship Contest. I am very proud of Ms. Lachut and her accomplishment.

FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION

(By Christina Lachut)

Freedom. The very thought of it conjures visions of blue skies, soaring eagles, and star spangled banners fluttering in the breeze. However, every Veterans' Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and now Patriot Day, we are reminded of the many lives sacrificed at "Freedom's altar." Freedom's altar lies not in a single land, but across many, from the fields of Gettysburg to Flanders field, from Pearl Harbor to the Mekong Delta, from the sands of Iraq to the hills of the Balkans, and from the streets of New York City to the rocks of Afghanistan. In every land where an American in Freedom's name falls, a lighthouse of hope is raised. Yes, one can easily see that our liberties as Americans are not without a price. This American freedom is not as much a right as it is an obligation; an obligation to be a torch of freedom and justice to every dark shore our nation beholds.

Even in its birth, our country inspired other peoples in far away lands to begin their pursuit of the ideals our Founding Fathers themselves sought. As our nation matured, it fought its own battles into adulthood and came to more fully realize the breadth of the concept of the Freedom it embraced: the state of being fully without bonds and lawfully equal to all people regardless of color, heritage, gender, ability, or belief. As an individual, each has a responsibility to help preserve another's freedom, and not to aid in impeding it. As well as to